COMMON ACTS OF WORSHIP

from the

Second World Conference on Faith and Order

EDINBURGH, AUGUST 3-18, 1937

and from the

United Service in St. Paul's Cathedral, London

ON AUGUST 29, 1937, FOR THE DELEGATES TO THE OXFORD AND EDINBURGH CONFERENCES

To the Glory of the God and Father of us all

and in memory of

CHARLES HENRY BRENT

President of the First World Conference on Faith and Order

Br280.232
C 737 a
copy 2

LIBRARY OF THE
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

BIBLIOTHÈQUE
DU CONSEIL ŒCUMÉNIQUE

This book must be returned not later than
Ce livre doit être rendu au plus tard à la date
inscrite ci-après

1430

Br 280.232
C 737 a
copy 2

PREFACE

During the World Conferences on Faith and Order and on Life and Work held in the summer of 1937, men and women of many Christian communions worshipped together within the ancient churches of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and the High Kirk of St. Giles, Edinburgh.

Anglicans and Orthodox, Old Catholics, Calvinists and Lutherans, Friends and Disciples, Baptists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Reformed, Methodists and others, from America, Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Islands of the Sea, lifted up their hearts and voices in French, German, English, and silently in many other languages, in prayer and in worship of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This they did in the spirit of love, understanding and respect as the "unsearchable riches of Christ" were revealed in many forms. They sought union in place of division, as they faced differences which had rent the Church asunder centuries before. They experienced a spiritual unity and fellowship which seemed a foretaste of the visible unity which, grounded in the "one God and Father of us all," will fully come when men, drawing near to Jesus Christ, and so closer to one another, are ready for God in His own good time to make them wholly one.

Some of these Common Acts of Worship were in printed form. They are reprinted, not only because they are of historic value, but because it is hoped that through them many will enter more fully into the inner spiritual unity we already possess, and may join in preparing the way for a more visible unity of the Body of Christ.

LIBRARY
World Council of Churches
150, route de Ferney, GENEVA

"We are all united . . . in the use of the Holy Scriptures. We are further united in common prayer, which may be expressed in the spoken word, through silence, or by employment of the sacred treasures of Christian literature, art and music. In this worship we all stand before God in adoration of His majesty, bringing to Him our own needs and the needs of our fellows. We wait for His grace in the forgiveness of our sins and for the restoration of our spirits through renewed communion with Him, and we dedicate ourselves to His service and the service of all mankind."

From the Report of the Second World Conference on Faith and Order

I.

From the "United Service for the Delegates to the World Conferences of the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work and on Faith and Order," at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, July 29, 1937.

THE EXHORTATION

(Led by the Dean of St. Paul's)

The Lord be with you.

Answer: *And with thy spirit.*

The Almighty and Eternal God, whose glory the heavens declare, and who has made manifest his holiness and love in Jesus Christ, has now in his Providence called us together—people from many nations who in divers manners but with single faith confess his Name and worship him alone—that, united in adoration, we may as one fellowship pray and take counsel for the good of his Church and in preparation for the coming of his Kingdom. Let us therefore lift up our hearts to him in prayer in words which he has taught us and in praise, ascribing to him all Majesty and Dominion, and offering to him the homage of our hearts and lives.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

To be said by the congregation, kneeling.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever. *Amen.*

Then, the congregation standing, shall be sung

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

AN ACT OF INVOCATION

(Led by the Bishop of Dornakal, South India)

The Congregation kneeling,

By thy Word made known in Jesus Christ, in whom thou art revealed as our Father and we are redeemed to be thy sons,

Hear us, O God.

By the faith of thine Apostles, Prophets and Martyrs through whose witness that Word has been proclaimed throughout the world,

Hear us, O God.

By the labours of thy Church in all nations and in all ages,

Hear us, O God.

By the hunger of men's souls for the truth that is in thy Word alone,

Hear us, O God.

By the distractions of the world and the bewilderment of men, which only the knowledge of thy truth can appease,

Hear us, O God.

By the need of all for faith in the redemption which thou hast wrought,

Hear us, O God.

By the triumph of the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ whereby we are raised up with him to the life of Heaven,

Hear us, O God.

For thine own love's sake.

Hear us, O God.

AN ACT OF PENITENCE

(Led by the Archbishop of Upsala, Sweden)

From the sin which is in us, leading us to prefer our will to thine,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From the prejudice and blindness, in our souls, in our nations and in our religious fellowships,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From unreadiness to hear thy call, and from slothfulness in our obedience,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From racial pride and national arrogance, whereby we mar the harmony of life in thy great family,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From easy contentment with what is familiar and from hesitation in making adventure for thy Kingdom,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From failure to recognize thy Holy Spirit dispensing to others gifts differing from those which we have received,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From love of all that hinders us from conformity to thy holy Will,

Good Lord, deliver us.

AN ACT OF INTERCESSION

(Led by the Reverend J. Hutchison Cockburn, D.D.
representing the Moderator of the Church of Scotland)

That thy whole Church and all its members may be filled with thy Holy Spirit, that so thy Word may have free course and be glorified,

We beseech thee, good Lord.

That we may be consistent in the witness of our lives and courageous in the witness of our lips,

We beseech thee, good Lord.

That all thy servants may be eager and wise to redeem the time, using each opportunity as thy Providence provides,

We beseech thee, good Lord.

That those who suffer persecution for their faith may persevere in loyalty to thee and have a happy issue out of all their afflictions,

We beseech thee, good Lord.

That justice and love may increasingly prevail in the dealings of man with man, nation with nation, and race with race,

We beseech thee, good Lord.

That all who profess thy Name may be led to such knowledge of thy truth, that they may hold the faith in unity, and peace, and love,

We beseech thee, good Lord.

AN ACT OF ADORATION

(Led by the Archbishop of Thyateira
Greek Orthodox Church)

For thy divine glory wherewith the heavens and the earth are filled,

We give thee praise.

For Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, for his holy Nativity, his Cross and Passion, his glorious Resurrection and Ascension,

We give thee praise.

For the Holy Spirit, shedding abroad thy love in our hearts, empowering saints and martyrs, and upholding us in thy service,

We give thee praise.

For the wonder of our calling to be fellow-workers with thee, and of our fellowship with thee and with thy Son Jesus Christ,

We give thee praise.

For the hope of thy Kingdom both here and in the world to come,

We give thee praise.

For calling us in our generation to new enterprises and new sacrifice,

We give thee praise.

For the infinite Majesty of thine eternal glory,

We give thee praise.

II

From the "Order of Divine Service," in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, Tuesday, August 3, 1937.

A PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Almighty and most merciful God, our heavenly Father, we confess that we have grievously sinned against thee in thought, in word, and in deed. We have come short of thy glory, we have broken the unity of thy Holy Church, and we have turned every one of us aside from the way of life. Yet do thou, O most merciful Father, hear us when we call upon thee with penitent hearts. Pardon our sins, and grant us thy peace. Confirm us in all goodness, that we may serve thee with a quiet mind, and bring us to the life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

O God, Creator, Benefactor, and Father of all mankind, we come before thee to acknowledge thine infinite goodness, and to praise thee for thy mercies which are over all thy works. We thank thee for those comforts which have sustained and gladdened us in every stage of our earthly life, and for all those blessings now present to our remembrance. Above all, we bless thee for thy greatest gift in thy dear Son, for the sacraments and ordinances of his Church, and for the precious gospel of his grace and love. Grant that as we have freely received from thee, we may freely give unto others, and may glorify thee with our bodies and spirits which are thine; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A GENERAL PRAYER

O God, the Father of all mercies, hear us when we pray thee for the peace of the whole world and the salvation of the souls of men; for all Kings and governors, that they may be just and merciful, ruling in thy fear: For the nations to which we each, in particular, may owe allegiance, that thou wouldst grant them quiet and prosperous times: For the rulers and peoples thereof, that thou wouldst teach us, while loving and serving our own, to seek the brotherhood and good of thy whole family on earth: For thy holy, catholic, and apostolic Church throughout the world, that she may be more and more filled with thy gracious and life-giving Spirit, and serve thee in peace and unity: For all who serve thee in the ministry of thy Church, that they may ever seek the welfare of thy flock and the honour of thy Name: For all who have erred and strayed from the faith, or have

never heard thy saving gospel, that they may be brought to the knowledge and obedience of thy truth: For all strangers and travellers, that thy presence and protection may be with them: For this city, that true religion may flourish therein: For the poor and needy, the sick and suffering, the desolate and afflicted, and especially those known to ourselves, that they may find in thee their comfort, help, and deliverance: For the dying, that they may live for evermore with thee. Which prayer we offer in the name, and for the sake, of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

And, rejoicing in the communion of Saints, we remember with thanksgiving all thy servants who have departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially those dear to our own souls. . . . And we beseech thee to give us grace to be followers of them as they were followers of Christ, that we with them may attain eternal rest and peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

III.

From the Morning Services in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, at the beginning of each day's session of the Conference.

MORNING PRAYER FROM THE ORTHODOX SERVICES

(LED BY ARCHBISHOP ANTONY BASHIR,
Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, Syria)

Wednesday, August 11, 1937

The Congregation will stand throughout the Service.

Blessed is our God always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. *Amen.*

In peace let us beseech the Lord.

For the peace that is from above and the salvation of our souls.

RESPONSE. *Let us beseech the Lord.*

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of God's holy churches and for the union of them all.

Let us beseech the Lord.

For the holy houses of God, and for those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter into them.

Let us beseech the Lord.

For our most pious rulers, for all our brethren in Christ.

Let us beseech the Lord.

For this city, for every city and country and for those who in faith dwell in them.

Let us beseech the Lord.

For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times.

Let us beseech the Lord.

For those who travel by sea, by land or by air; for the sick and the suffering; for those who are in captivity and for their salvation.

Let us beseech the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulations, wrath, peril and divisions.

Let us beseech the Lord.

For mercy, life, health, peace, salvation, forgiveness and remission of sins.

Let us beseech the Lord.

Succour us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Let us beseech the Lord.

For unto Thee are due all glory, honour and adoration, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

O heavenly King and Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the treasury of all blessings and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, purify us from every stain, and of thy goodness save our souls. Most Holy Trinity have mercy upon us. O Lord, pardon our sins: O Master, forgive our transgressions: O Holy Trinity, visit and heal our infirmities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us all with one mind confess our sins to the Lord.

The congregation shall join in the following confession.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us. For we sinners, void of all defence, do offer unto Thee, as to our Master,

this supplication: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, for in thee have we trusted, and be not very wroth with us, neither call thou to remembrance our iniquities; for thou art our God, and we are thy people, we are all the work of thy hands, and we call upon thy name. Have mercy upon us. *Amen.*

Let us pray to the Lord.

O God our Saviour, who by thy prophet Nathan didst grant unto repentant David pardon of his transgressions and didst accept Manasses' prayer of penitence; O Shepherd and Lamb, who takest away the sins of the world, who didst remit the loan unto the two debtors, and didst vouchsafe to the woman who was a sinner the remission of her sins: Show thy mercy now upon thy servants and grant unto them true repentance, forgiveness of sins and deliverance from divisions, pardoning their every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary. Reconcile and unite them unto thy Holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Beatitudes

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.
Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Here shall silence be kept for a space.

Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess:

Then shall the congregation say the Nicene Creed.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all Ages, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father, through Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary, and became Man.

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, he suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures.

And ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.

And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified: Who spake by the Prophets.

In One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge One Baptism for the remission of sins.

I look for the Resurrection of the dead:

And the life of the age to come. *Amen.*

Let us pray to the Lord.

(*Prayer of St. Basil the Great.*)

We bless thee, O Most High God and Lord of mercy, who ever doest great and inscrutable things for us, glorious, wonderful and without number; who grantest to us sleep for rest from our infirmities and repose for the burdens of our much-toiling flesh. We thank thee that thou hast not destroyed us in our sins, for thou ever lovest us; and though we were sunk in despair, thou hast raised us up to glorify thy power. Therefore we entreat thy incomparable goodness; enlighten the eyes of our understanding and raise up our minds from the

heavy sleep of indifference; open our mouth and fill it with thy praise that we may be able undistracted to sing and praise and give thanks to thee who art God glorified in all and by all, the eternal Father, thine only-begotten Son and the all-holy and righteous and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and from all ages to all ages. *Amen.*

Let us pray for our brethren who have passed before us on the eternal road behind the veil.

Be mindful, O Lord, of our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection to eternal life, and of all those who have finished their time in piety and faith: pardon all transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, whether in word or deed or thought, committed by them. And do thou shelter them in places of light, in places of green pasture, in places of refreshing, whence all pain, sorrow and sighing have fled away and where the visitation of thy countenance rejoiceth all thy saints from all ages. Grant to them thy kingdom and the participation in thine ineffable and eternal favours and the enjoyment of thine unending and blessed life. For thou, O Christ our God, art the life, the resurrection and the repose of thy servants who have fallen asleep, and to thee we ascribe glory, with thine eternal Father and thine all-holy and righteous and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and from all ages to all ages. *Amen.*

Let us complete our prayers to the Lord.
That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless.

Let us ask the Lord.

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our soul.

Let us ask the Lord.

For the forgiveness and remission of our sins.

Let us ask the Lord.

For what is good and profitable for our souls and for peace in the world.

Let us ask the Lord.

That the rest of our life may be spent in peace and penitence.

Let us ask the Lord.

That the end of our life may be Christian, painless, without shame, and peaceful, and that we may have a good defence at the fearful judgment seat of Christ.

Let us ask the Lord.

Praying for the unity of the Faith, and the Communion of Saints through the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord.

And vouchsafe, O Lord, that boldly and without condemnation we may dare to call upon thee, the heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, now and for ever and from all ages to all ages. *Amen.*

Peace be with you all.

And with thy spirit.

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(*Prayer of St. Ephram the Syrian.*)

O Lord and Master of our life, give us not a spirit of sloth, of curiosity, of selfishness or of vain talking: But rather a spirit of prudence, of humility, of patience and of love, bestow on us thy servants. Yea, O Lord and King, grant to us to see our own errors and not to judge our brethren, for thou art blessed from all ages to all ages. *Amen.*

Benediction

May the blessings of the Lord and his mercies be upon you through his divine grace and love towards mankind, now and ever and forever. *Amen.*

A GENERAL LITANY

(Led by Bishop Azariah, of Dornakal, India)

(*August* 13, 1937)

O God the Father of Heaven,
Have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the Faithful,
Have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one GOD,

Have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

Remember not, LORD, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins; Spare us, good LORD, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever.

Spare us, good Lord.

From arrogance and impatience; from wilful misunderstanding of each other's difficulties; from all want of kindness and of charity,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From worldliness and blindness of heart; from envy and strife and whatever may hinder us from godly union and concord,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From unwillingness to confess our faults; from blindness to the virtues of others; from indifference to the evil of a divided Christendom,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From failure to recognize the work of thy HOLY SPIRIT wherever he may please to dwell; from want of faith and confidence; from hopelessness and despair.

Good Lord, deliver us.

From neglect of prayer and unwillingness to obey thy will; from hardness of heart and contempt of thy word and comandment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the glory given thee by the FATHER, that thou shouldst be the SAVIOUR of the world,

Incline our hearts to do thy will.

By thy coming to seek and to save the lost; by thy Holy Incarnation; by thy life of trial and temptation; by thy days of toil and thy nights of prayer,

Incline our hearts to do thy will.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial,

Incline our hearts to do thy will.

By thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; by thy power over all things in heaven and in earth; by thy promise to be with thy servants unto the end of the world,

Incline our hearts to do thy will.

By thy continual Intercession at the right hand of God; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

Incline our hearts to do thy will.

By thy second Coming to judge the world; by the solemn gathering of all nations round thy Throne,

Incline our hearts to do thy will.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to receive our supplications and prayers for all estates of men in thy holy Church, that every member of the same in his vocation and ministry may truly and godly serve thee,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to enable us seriously to take to heart the great dangers which we are in through our unhappy divisions and to strive to draw nearer to each other in thee and for thee,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to pour out upon us the spirit of earnest prayer and supplication, that we may be fitted and prepared to do thy holy will,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to pardon us all sins of ecclesiastical tyranny, spiritual barrenness and moral inefficiency, by which men have been driven from thy fold,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to restore the visible unity of thy Church, broken by our sin,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant us patience to understand the difficulties of those who are separated from us and readiness to appreciate the truths for which they stand,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show us how to give up whatever is sectarian in our contentions and to give of the truth which thou hast revealed to us,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant us the grace of perseverance that we may not be discouraged by the many difficulties which the study of Christian differences reveals,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to move men's hearts with a greater desire for unity, that at last there may be one flock as there is one Shepherd,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to save us from the shame of perpetuating our divisions among those in the Mission Field whom thou hast called out of darkness,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless the effort of those who are striving to bring together in conference all who confess the faith of thy Holy Name,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to guide our hearts and minds beyond any union or organization to the true unity which is of life,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

O SAVIOUR of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us,

Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Our FATHER, . . . But deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

O GOD of Peace, who through thy SON JESUS CHRIST didst set forth One Faith for the salvation of mankind; send thy grace and heavenly blessing upon all Christian people who are striving to draw nearer to thee, and to each other, in the unity of the SPIRIT and in the bond of peace. Give us penitence for our divisions, wisdom to know thy truth, courage to do thy will, love which shall break down the barriers of pride and prejudice, and an unswerving loyalty to thy holy Name. Suffer us not to shrink from any endeavour which is in accordance with thy Will, for the peace and unity of thy Church. Give us boldness to seek only thy glory and the advancement of thy kingdom. Unite us all in thee as thou, O FATHER, with thy SON and the HOLY SPIRIT, are one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, the Good Shepherd, who didst lay down thy life for thy sheep, and dost quicken them with the food of thy Body and Blood, fill us with the spirit of thy love that we may freely spend and be spent in thy service, and assist us in bringing thy sheep, scattered throughout the world, into thy one flock, who livest and reignest with the FATHER in the Unity of the HOLY GHOST, one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

GRACIOUS FATHER, we humbly beseech thee to bless thy Holy Catholic Church, and fill it with truth and grace. Where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss,

reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is wanting, furnish it; where it is divided and rent asunder, heal the breaches thereof, O thou Holy One of Israel; for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. *Amen.*

THE grace of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

IV.

From the Evening Devotions in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, at the close of each day's session.

A little book entitled "Psalms and Prayers" was prepared for use at the Conference, in English, French and German. From this is reproduced a prayer frequently used at the closing devotions.

A CLOSING PRAYER

We commend to thy mercy, O Heavenly Father, all that we have thought, and said, and done this day, beseeching thee to pardon all that has been amiss in us, and to accept for thy glory all that has been done in accordance with thy holy will: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Nous remettons à ta miséricorde, ô Père Céleste, tout ce que nous avons pensé, dit et fait en ce jour, te suppliant de nous pardonner ce que nous avons fait de mal, et d'agréer pour ta gloire tout ce qui a été fait selon ta sainte volonté. Par Jésus-Christ notre Seigneur. *Amen.*

Unser himmlischer Vater! Deiner Gnade stellen wir alles anheim, was wir am heutigen Tage gedacht, gesagt and getan haben. Verzeihe uns alles, was in uns verkehrt war, und lass zu deiner Ehre dienen, was wir im Einklang mit deinem Willen getan haben. Wir bitten dich durch Jesum Christum, unseren Herrn. *Amen.*

AN ACT OF THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD

This was the Closing Service of the Edinburgh Conference, held in St. Giles' Cathedral, August 18, 1937.

Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:
Holy, Holy, Holy! merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blesséd Trinity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! all the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blesséd Trinity.

Amen.

We give thanks to Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that we are one in our Lord Jesus Christ; not by the agreement of our minds or the consent of our wills, but by that which He, in His unmerited Grace, has done for us in His incarnation, death and resurrection, and by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We thank Thee, O God.

We give thanks that He has called us into His faith, and laid upon us an allegiance to Himself that is above all other loyalties.

We thank Thee, O God.

We give thanks for the knowledge that though we are divided in outward form we all are the objects of the love and Grace of God.

We thank Thee, O God.

We give thanks that we have been brought into a fellowship of thought and prayer; for all that we have learned in our fellowship; for prejudices overcome; misunderstandings removed, sympathies enlarged, insight deepened; and for all advance that has been made towards a common mind.

We thank Thee, O God.

We pray that through patience and humility Christians of each several communion may be led to a deeper understanding of those truths of the Gospel to which they have borne witness; into a wider understanding of those truths for which other communions have stood; and finally into an apprehension of the truth in its fulness, wherein all our partial apprehension shall be brought into unity.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the joy that we have found in sharing the treasures of worship and devotion that we even now hold in common.

We thank Thee, O God.

We acknowledge that our understanding of the truth as it is in Jesus has been limited by our pride, wilfulness and narrowness of mind, and that our witness to the world is weakened by our divisions.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

We therefore pray together to Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that He will forgive the sinfulness of our separation, and grant us true repentance and grace to amend our ways.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray that Christians everywhere may be led to seek diligently for ways of manifesting in outward and visible form the unity of heart and spirit which has been granted to us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray that all men everywhere, in a world distracted and divided, may turn to Christ, who makes us one in spite of our divisions; that He may bind in one those whom many worldly claims set at variance; and that the world may at last find peace and unity in Him; to Whom be glory for ever.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn

Now thank we all our God,
With heart, and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us!
With ever-joyful hearts
And blesséd peace to cheer us:
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next. Amen.

Scripture Reading: St. John xv, 1-12

Then shall silence be kept for a space.

O CHRIST, our only Saviour, so dwell within us that we may go forth with the light of hope in our eyes, and the fire of inspiration on our lips, thy word on our tongues, and thy love in our hearts. *Amen.*

O LORD, support us all the day long of this troublous life: until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing